

Abstract of the Disclosure

A charge number issuing system and method that provides a universally acceptable, anonymous and secure payment option. The issuing system receives a bin of valid purchase numbers from an issuing bank that are in the same format as universally-accepted credit numbers. The issuing system detects a request for a charge number, such as via a telephonic network or an online purchase transaction between a user and a merchant through a computer network, and provides a valid purchase number via the network. The user may then consummate a pending transaction or a subsequent transaction via the computer network or the telephonic network using the provided purchase number. The merchant clears the transaction through a charge settlement network, where the issuing system is pre-certified as processor for the valid purchase numbers. Thus, the charge settlement network routes the purchase transaction back to the issuing system for verification, authorization and settlement. The issuing system may also generate and provide a valid expiration date. The issuing system may further expire each purchase number after being used for a single purchase transaction to improve security.

09662222-091400